

plays at Central Missouri State University and served as president and on the board of directors for the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri. He has been honored for endeavors in teaching and drama. He was nominated for the Outstanding Teacher Award by the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, directed a play which received commendation from the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, and saw the establishment of seven different scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. See deserves the thanks and praises of the many students that he has served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this exceptional teacher.

## LET'S MAKE SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT FOR 75 YEARS AND BEYOND

### HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, we all want to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency. So, the only remaining question is how we get it done.

Congress could reduce benefits or increase the retirement age like the Social Security reform measures enacted in 1977 and 1983. During these past efforts, Congress phased in an increase in the normal retirement age from 65 to 67 and reduced benefit levels. I haven't heard a lot of support lately for further increasing the retirement age or cutting benefits for future retirees.

Some believe we should create individual accounts to invest funds in the private market. This proposal would accelerate the Social Security solvency problem by taking funds out of the system that have already been counted when estimating long-term solvency.

Further, concerns have been raised that using individual accounts would jeopardize the progressive nature of the system, which helps ensure low-income workers a basic benefit level. Social Security was established as a guaranteed minimum retirement package. Individuals already have the option of supplementing this plan with private savings and investments.

Others suggest investing Social Security funds in equity markets, while also retaining guaranteed benefits. This approach might increase the earnings of the trust funds, but would also involve greater risk.

I recommend another option—increase the interest rate we pay to Social Security. Over the past 10 years, the Social Security trust funds have received interest of about 4.5 percent over inflation. I propose that we raise that rate—or “refinance”—at 6 percent over inflation, making Social Security solvent indefinitely.

Under my approach, funds to ensure Social Security solvency must come from the General Treasury. This plan keeps our commitment to extend Social Security for future retirees, and provides for a straight-forward accounting of the cost of these obligations within the budget framework that we use to fund our national priorities. It is not an instant solution, but an honest path to address the Social Security solvency problem for the coming wave of Baby Boom retirees.

## IN MEMORY OF JUSTICE EARL STOVER

### HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Justice Earl Stover, a pillar in the community of Silsbee, Texas, whose passing last month shook so many of us who have been touched by his passion for life and his compassion for his fellow Texans.

As a college football player, Earl Stover became known as “Smokey” Stover—and the name stuck. Smokey's life touched every corner of his community in Silsbee.

If you ask former Silsbee School District Superintendent Herbert Muckleroy what he thought of Smokey, he'll tell you about Justice Stover's respect for education: “He believed in education. His boys got a good education and he wanted everybody else to get the same. And he supported whatever it took to do that.”

Eddie Doggett, who worked for Smokey almost half a century ago in 1957, will tell you about Justice Stover's work ethic: “He believed in loyalty. He set goals and accomplished them.”

And Chief Justice Ronald Walker, who served with Smokey Stover on the Ninth Court of Appeals, will tell you tales about Smokey's sharp legal mind: “Many of his opinions are now recorded for the posterity and benefit of this state's jurisprudence.”

Justice Stover served his community as president of the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce, president of the Silsbee Kiwanis Club, as a trustee of the Silsbee School District, as a strong supporter of the Silsbee Doctors Hospital, and as an active member of his church.

His contributions to the Texas legal community were equally memorable. Justice Stover served as the Hardin County Attorney, as presiding judge of the 88th Judicial District Court for nine years, and a Justice on the Ninth Court of Appeals for seven years.

Along with his other friends, my life was enriched by knowing Smokey. He always brought a smile to your face and he always offered an encouraging word. He understood the important role government could play in the lives of ordinary people. Justice Stover was firmly committed to the proposition that in the courtroom before the bar of justice, the powerful and the powerless stood as equals. He knew that in the halls of Congress and the Legislature, the workings of the democratic process can guarantee every citizen an equal opportunity to share in the American dream. Smokey always reminded me to “watch out for his Social Security.” I knew he didn't just mean for him, but for every American who deserves to live their latter years with independence and dignity.

On December 9, 2000, Smokey Stover's battle with cancer took his life, leaving a void in our community that cannot be replaced. The words of his Silsbee neighbor Mitch Hickman best expressed the admiration we all held for Justice Stover.

“You could go home and dust off your Bible, read it cover to cover, and not find enough good words to say about Smokey Stover.”

## CANFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the Canfield High School Girls Basketball Team and Coach Patrick Pavlansky on their incredible season. The Lady Cardinals finished with a 21–7 record en route to a second place finish in the Division 11 State Championship.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the members of the Canfield Girls Basketball Team: Nicole Vljakovich, Harmony Ramunno, Tee Lisotto, Kelly Williams, Jenny Miller, Erin Fening, Jessica Gifford, Erin Martin, Jill Vertanen, Julie Playforth, Megan Turocy, Mara Boak, Corey Hoffman, Kera Yelkin, Coach Patrick Pavlansky, Principal Abby Barone, and the students of Canfield High School as they celebrate this memorable season.

## HONORING GEORGE E. CODY

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George E. Cody for his commitment to the Franklin Fire Department in Massachusetts.

George E. Cody began his career with the Franklin Fire Department on November 1, 1966. On November 4, 1983, he was added as a permanent firefighter, and was later promoted to Department Lieutenant on July 3, 1986. He retires today as the Captain of the Franklin Fire Department, a position he achieved on September 9, 1999, after over 30 years of dedicated service to the Franklin community.

George Cody is a lifelong resident of Franklin, Massachusetts, and a long time member of the Franklin Democratic Town Committee. George is a past member of the Franklin Charter Commission, and a present member of the Franklin Elks Organization. Throughout his life, George has been an extremely active member of the Franklin community. I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for the commitment that he has shown to the town and people of Franklin, Massachusetts.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28, I was unable to cast my votes on rollcall votes: No. 51 on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 67 as amended; No. 52 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Con. Res. 41; No. 53 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Con. Res. 43; No. 54 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1042 as amended; No. 55 on motion to suspend the rules and